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Intelligence Unit Argues Secrecy Rule

Members of the new House Committee on Intelligence began wrangling yesterday over the degree of secrecy needed for their investigation of the CIA and other government intelligence agencies.

Proposed rules for the inquiry would limit access to the committee's files to the committee's 10 members and the committee staff.

The regulations presented to the committee yesterday would also prohibit other members of Congress from inspecting the records, despite standing House rules granting all members the right to look at any committee's files.

Reps. Michael Harrington (D-Mass.) and Ronald V. Dellums (D-Calif.) protested that it would be impossible for committee members to keep track of the investigation unless aides could be designated from their own staffs to keep them posted.

Rep. Robert N. Giaimo (D-Conn.) indicated that he agreed. He said the danger of leaks already existed because 10 representatives would have access to the records, and he said he doubted that the risks would be any greater if each member were allowed to name one aide to inspect the records.

Other committee members, such as Reps. James V. Stanton (D-Ohio) and Robert McClory (R-Ill.), insisted, however, that they ought to rely on the committee staff rather than their own to keep them apprised.